

If it is true that the Vanderbilt system of railways, that of the Pennsylvania have been combined by Morgan, and true that as a big stockholder in the Frisco Rock Island systems he is at the bottom of the combining of the Rock Island, Frisco and Santa Fe, then it logically follows that the merger will represent nearer forty than twenty thousand miles of road or a value of at least \$2,400,000,000. The mere contemplation of such vast, of such an almost incomputable interest has a paralyzing effect. These systems combined reach from the Atlantic to the Pacific and from the Lakes to the Gulf twice over. Can it be that the intention is to unload on the United States for bonds? Has Morgan and his crowd turned Socialistic promoters? What they are doing but strengthens the party and claims of Socialism. This movement, says the Cleveland Leader, toward the complete consolidation of the railways of the United States will immediately gain such a momentum that the Socialists will be greatly encouraged, everywhere. They say that the moment competition, of the genuine and serious kind, ends in the railroad business of America, the demand for government ownership will be strengthened more than it could be in a quarter of a century of free rivalry. Monopoly is what makes converts for Socialism. Monopoly which aims at one vast combination, one combination of all business interests under the control of the Government, with all the people owners of the products of the consolidation. No other monopoly is so conspicuous.

Success in politics is not encompassed by war, but by diplomacy; strategy, not fight, wins the victory.

the very religion of my heart.—Sherwin
Cody.

To hold the mirror up to Nature doesn't
make her any more vain.

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